

TUTBURY WAR MEMORIALS COMMITTEE

Distribution of finalised Minutes

to: Committee members
cc: Parish Council (Chairman, Clerk)
Parochial Church Council (Incumbent) – hardcopy
Civic Society (Chair)
cfi: Bishop of Stafford

INAUGURAL MEETING

Held on Thursday 10th January 2013 at 26 Hillcrest, Tutbury at 2pm

Present: Mr Rick Nuth Mr Bernard Barton Mr Eric Reynolds
 Mrs Jane Nuth Mrs Sue Norris Mrs Pol Wood Mr Bob Wood

Apologies: Mrs Lesley Evans

Aims and Objectives

1. Those present had been invited to discuss the creation of a Committee to assess condition and possible conservation/renovation/restoration of the Tutbury War Memorial sited in St Mary's Priory Churchyard.
2. The possibility of funding for this project was to be investigated.
3. The recording of the location and condition of all other War Memorials in Tutbury was to be undertaken hence the plural of memorials in the name of the Committee.

How the Project Began

Rick and Jane outlined the details of their self-funded book the "Tutbury Book of Remembrance" (the research into the first 50 WWI names on the Tutbury War Memorial in the Churchyard – and henceforth called "The Book"). The condition of the War Memorial had been noted during this project and photographs emailed to War Memorials Trust for their view on its condition.

As so many more names of those who died in WWI have been identified, plus those who died in WWII, a second edition of the Book would be prepared this year.

Tutbury Parish Council had been approached regarding the condition of the War Memorial in St Mary's Priory Churchyard and had suggested that Mr and Mrs Nuth form a Committee for the conservation/renovation/restoration of the War Memorial. Mr and Mrs Nuth had been invited to the November 2012 Parish Council Meeting to discuss this.

Future Publicity

Mr Reynolds, of Burton TV News, offered televised advertising for the project. It was thought that springtime would offer better weather and an interview to camera by the War Memorial in the Churchyard, giving an update would be appropriate.

Mr Reynolds also explained of the local books that were sold on line by Burton TV News and would ask the Manager of that concern to make contact with the Nuths. Also advertising in BTM was suggested by Mr Reynolds.

Mr Reynolds was thanked for his help and he left the meeting.

The Discussion

The Nuths referred to the Briefing Notes which had been distributed prior to the Meeting. In the course of their research, it had been discovered that there were other War Memorials in Tutbury – 7 to date, with the whereabouts of 2 not known. For the purposes of this meeting, the War Memorial referred to that situated in St Mary's Priory Churchyard.

Local people were to be asked if any had knowledge of these missing memorials – that of the Druids from the Castle Inn, Bridge Street and the Memorial from the Congregational Church.

It was queried if there were any more War Memorials – perhaps had been in the Wesleyan Chapel, etc.

Mrs Nuth showed photographs illustrating the state of the War Memorial.

Ownership of the War Memorial

At the November Parish Council Meeting, it was explained that the War Memorial had been assessed in 2009 by Anthony Sharp & Partners of Ashbourne, but that the vicar had not replied to their letter seeking clarification on ownership of the War Memorial.

Mr Barton explained that ownership of a War Memorial, if raised by public subscription (as was the Tutbury War Memorial in the Churchyard – see Briefing Notes for the history of this) was for the people by the people. Therefore the ownership lay with their representatives – the Parish Council.

As the Parish Council had suggested that the Nuths form a Committee, to legitimise this and give authorisation to such a Committee, it was suggested that a letter be sent to the Parish Council asking for this and giving a positive statement. The Parish Council's reply would then substantiate any requests to conservationists, banks, etc.

It was reported that a letter had been sent by Mrs Nuth to the vicar in November asking for a meeting to discuss ownership, etc.; no acknowledgment had been received. It was therefore suggested, in the light of the Bishop of Stafford's written approval of the Book and his request to perform the re-dedication on completion, that any further communication to the vicar should also be copied to the Bishop.

It was felt appropriate to also send copy to East Staffordshire Bough Council.

Action: RN & JN

Criteria for inclusion of names on a War Memorial

Mr Nuth explained that the criterion for inclusion of names on the Tutbury War Memorial was not known (why some were not included, etc.). Mr Barton said that the criteria were very varied – including those born or living in a place, or who worked there or the environs of a hospital where the person died, etc. There was no standard criterion – which explains why another 47 names, not on the War Memorial, have been uncovered in the course of research (and which will be researched for the second edition of the Book).

Funding

Mrs Norris explained that she had attended the Heritage Lottery Fund Meeting at the Burton Brewhouse on the funding for projects for the 2014 Centenary Commemorations.

Mr Barton reported that on the application form for Lottery funding all sections of the community must benefit from the award – and especially that it should be educational.

Discussion took place as to other sources of funding – the Parish Council (which can spend money on a War Memorial under the 1923 War Memorials Act or a certain percentage of their funds on such a project under Section 137), County Council, local companies (Nestle, Co-op, British Gypsum, etc.).

Conservation/restoration Companies who may be approached

The Priory Suite in St Mary's Priory Church had been beautifully created in the North Aisle by Midlands Stone Masons.

Mr Nuth said that he had lists of recommended conservationists, etc, given by both War Memorials Trust and Lichfield Diocese.

The Formation of the Committee

It was unanimously decided to form a Committee, with the above Aims and Objectives; the Committee will be formed by the attendees with the exception of Mr Eric Reynolds who was present to offer his assistance with publicity.

Actions

1. A briefing note outlining the plans was to be posted on the website (the domain name of the website has been secured and the website is in the process of creation).

Action: RN

2. A letter to be sent to Tutbury Parish Council detailing the Aims and Objectives and to legitimise the Committee. This is to be first circulated to the Committee.

Action: RN & JN

3. A Newsletter is to be circulated asking for any local interest in joining the Committee (Tutbury Village News, the Parish Magazine, Hilton & Dove Valley Magazine, etc.).

Action: RN & JN

4. Mr Rick Nuth was nominated by Mr Wood and seconded by Mr Barton as Chairman and Mrs Nuth was appointed Secretary.

Constitution

It was felt necessary to write a Constitution for the Committee, which would prove necessary when requesting formal and/or legal matters. Mrs Norris would assist in this.

Action: SN & RN

Any Other Business

There being no other comments, the Meeting was closed at 4.20pm.

Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the date of the next Meeting would be arranged after the reply is received from Tutbury Parish Council.